

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 171705Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. SUMMARY: PAKISTAINI PRESIDENT BHUTTO WILL VISIT MOSCOW OCTOBER 24-26. ACCORDING TO AN UNOFFICIAL SOVIET SOURCE, THE MAIN SOVIET OBJECTIVE IS TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES AND TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER REGIONAL COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PAKISTANI EMBOFF TOLD US ON OCTOBER 16 THAT PRESIDENT BHUTTO WOULD ARRIVE IN MOSCOW ON OCTOBER 24 AND LEAVE ON OCTOBER 26. HE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD SCHEDULED THE VISIT TO OVERLAP WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S, BUT SAID THAT THE DATES WERE FIRM.

3. LATER IN THE DAY, EMBOFF DISCUSSED BHUTTO VISIT AND SOVIET RELATIONS WITH SOUTH ASIA WITH A WELL-INFORMED SOVIET ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS ON SOUTH ASIA, PROFESSOR GANKOVSKY OF THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES. HE CONFIRMED THE BHUTTO DATES AND SAID THAT THE MAIN SOVIET OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH PAKISTAN AND TO ENCOURAGE  
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FURTHER STEPS TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES IN THE

REGION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. ON THE CONTINUING TENSIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN, HE STRESSED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT FEEDING THE FIRES AND THAT THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN IDENTIFYING WITH ONE SIDE IN SUCH DISPUTES. HE NOTED THE FREQUENCY OF DAOUD'S UNHELPFUL REMARKS, BUT WAS NOT CONCERNED THAT THEY WOULD LEAD TO ANY EARLY HOSTILITIES. ON PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA, HE NOTED THE RECENT AGREEMENT TO REESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS LINKS AND LOOKED TOWARD FURTHER STEPS IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS. THE INDO-PAK RELATIONSHIP WAS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, HOWEVER, AND IN HIS VIEW WOULD NOT BE QUICKLY OR COMPLETELY RESOLVED. CONCERNING PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS, GANKOVSKY MENTIONED THE DIVISION OF ASSETS AND SAID FLATELY THAT THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT SHOULD TURN OVER HALF OF THE \$170 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE IT HELD WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS DIVIDED. INSTEAD, HE SAID, THE PAKISTANIS WERE INVESTING IT IN THE OIL SHIEKDOMS WHERE THEY COULD GET A HIGH RETURN. WHEN EMBOFF MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF SHARED LIABILITIES, GANKOVSKY SAID HE THOUGHT BANGLADESH WAS TAKING CARE OF ITS OWN LIABILITIES, AND CITED A RECENT AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY TO SETTLE THE BD DEBT.

4. GANKOVSKY HINTED STRONGY THAT BHUTTO WOULD BE ASKED TO SUPPORT MOSCOW'S SCHEME OF ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM PAKISTAN AT THIS TIME, DUE TO ITS OTHER RELATIONSHIPS (READ CHINA), BUT THE IDEA WAS A LIVE ONE AND THE PAKS WOULD BEFORE LONG SEE THAT IT SERVED THEIR INTERESTS. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR FULLER DISCUSSION OF SOVIET VIEWS ON ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY.)

5. ON AID, GANKOVSKY MENTIONED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ALREADY PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN AND CITED A JAPANESE EXPERT TO THE EFFECT THAT PAKISTAN, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, WAS THE MOST VIABLE COUNTRY IN THE REGION ECONOMICALLY. HE IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT OFFER MUCH NEW AID, BUT AGREED THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ASKED.

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6. COMMENT: AT KEY POINTS THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, GANKOVSKY NOTED THAT HE WAS MERELY AN ACADEMIC AND NOT AN OFFICIAL. NEVERTHELESS HIS RUN-DOWN ON THE ISSUES AND HIS CLEAR AND AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF SOVIET POSITIONS MAKE IT SEEM LIKELY THAT HIS VIEWS ARE CLOSE TO THOSE BHUTTO WILL HEAR.  
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